

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, every day, 88 Americans are killed by gun violence and the lives of countless others are injured; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 20 times more likely to be murdered with guns than people in other developed countries; and

WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is mayors' highest responsibility; and

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from dangerous people; and

WHEREAS, mayors and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; and

WHEREAS, June 2nd, 2015 would have been the 18th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later; and

WHEREAS, to help honor Hadiya – and the 88 Americans whose lives are cut short and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day – a national coalition of organizations has designated June 2nd, 2015, as the first annual National Gun Violence Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; they chose this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

WHEREAS, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 2nd to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 2nd, Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives and lost human potential of Americans stolen by gun violence; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mayor John R. Dennis, of the city of West Lafayette, Indiana declares June 2, 2016 to be

National Gun Violence Awareness Day

I encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

John R. Dennis, Mayor
City of West Lafayette

